

NSC BRIEFING

13 January 1959

"THREATS TO THE STABILITY OF THE US MILITARY BASE POSITION IN SELECTED OVERSEAS LOCALITIES" (Summary of SNIE 100-10-58--LA bases treated Separately *Below*)

I. Threat greatest in North African-Near East, where host countries have little sense of sharing common objectives with US and where Arab nationalism strongly opposes western bases.

A. In Morocco US has been forced to accept principle of withdrawal. Recent investiture of left-wing nationalist Premier enhances prospect that US may have difficulty maintaining strategic use during withdrawal period. (US has asked for continued use for 7 years; previous govt asked for non-strategic use during 2-year phase-out period.)

B. In Libya and Saudi Arabia maintenance of bases linked to preservation two shaky dynasties, vulnerable to pan-Arab pressures

1. Restrictions in Libya unlikely to be carried so far as to compromise usefulness of bases. But death or removal of aging King will make position much less certain.

2. Present Saudi govt probably will not renounce Dhahran agreement, but will continue impose severe restrictions.

II. We foresee no early threat in three Far Eastern areas, Japan, Philippines, and Ryukyus. Present govts of Japan and Philippines recognize desirability of close defense ties with US, and while both have displayed increasing sensitivity over sovereignty matters, proponents of elimination of bases presently in minority.

A. However, Japan might move to restrict US combat operations from Japanese bases in event of intensified conflict in such areas as Taiwan. Further more unless there were marked change in

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public attitudes, Tokyo would probably veto US use of Japanese bases in support of nuclear warfare in Far East.

III. Our position in Spain likely remain secure for next several years although Franco will ask for higher quid pro quo. We may also be asked to move bases away from big cities.

A. Denmark will probably continue to provide US with facilities in Greenland.

B. We will be able to maintain Iceland base for next several years. But nationalist sentiment, possibly aroused by violence in fishery dispute, may grow to extent of demanding US withdrawal.

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LATIN AMERICA (not from NIE)

IV. US base position in Trinidad secure for next few years, although turbulent politics of new federation might bring anti-US elements to position where they could demand for US withdrawal.

V. In Brazil isolation of base has kept it out of public eye. Although there is occasionally agitation in press, US position appears secure at least for next few years.

VI. Trujillo unlikely to raise any serious objections to US base in Dominican Republic.

VII. In Cuba the new regime may be tempted to seek higher rent for Guantanamo.